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SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED MEETING ON PRESS AGENCIES POOL: A DECLARATION
ON INFORMATION

SUMMARY: THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON PRESS AGENCIES POOL PRODUCED A DECLARATION JULY 12 CRITIZING THE ALLEGED "PERSISTENT AND SERIOUS IMBALANCE" EXISTING IN THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SITUATION, AND CALLING FOR A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER FOR INFORMATION". "A FEW CENTERS" LOCATED IN "A FEW DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" ARE SAID TO BE DOMINATING THE WORLDWIDE FLOW AND QUALITY OF INFORMATION TO THE PREJUDICE OF "THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES," ESPECIALLY THE NON-ALIGNED. THE DECLARATION CALLS UPON THE NON-ALIGNED TO SEEK AN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ON THE ROLE OF MASS MEDIA IN ORDER TO COMBAT "RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, ZIONISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION". THE DECLARATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLOMBO SUMMIT FOR FINAL ENDORSEMENT. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, INFORMATION MINISTER HERE HAVE CONTINUED TO SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AGAINST WESTERN NEWS COVERAGE OF THEIR COUNTRIES. INDIAN ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE REPORTEDLY DEVOTING SOME EFFORT TO CONTROLLING THE SQUABBLING

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WHICH HAS BROKEN AMONG SOME DELEGATIONS IN ATTENDANCE. END

SUMMARY.

1. THE DELEGATES TO THE SIXTY-NATION NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI ON PRESS AGENCIES POOL ADOPTED A DECLARATION JULY 12 WHICH CRITIZES THE "PERSISTENT AND THE SERIOUS IMBALANCE IN THE CURENT GLOBAL INFORMATION SITUATION AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS" ON THE NON-ALIGNED, AND ASSERTS THEIR "NEED TO LIBERATE THEIR INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA FROM THE COLONIAL LEGACY..." THE DECLARATION, WHICH IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLOMBO SUMMIT CONFERENCE FOR ENDORSEMENT, MAKES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. "THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES ARE REDUCED TO BEING PASSIVE RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION WHICH IS DISSEMINATED FROM A FEW CENTERS," LOCATED IN "A FEW DEVELOPED COUNTRIES";

B. HENCE "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REALLY COMES TO MEAN THE FREEDOM OF THESE FEW TO PROPAGATE INFORMATION IN THE MANNER OF THEIR CHOOSING AND THE VIRTUAL DENIAL TO THE REST OF THE RIGHT TO INFORM AND BE INFORMED OBJECTIVELY AND ACCURATELY";

C. "NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HAVE IN PARTICULAR BEEN VICTIMS..." OF THIS SITUATION BECAUSE "THEIR ENDEAVORS...FOR WORLD PEACE, JUSTICE AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER HAVE BEEN UNDERPLAYED OR MISREPRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA, THEIR UNITY HAS SOUGHT TO BE ERODED, THEIR EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD THEIR...INDEPENDENCE AND STABILITY... DENIGRATED";

D. A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER FOR INFORMATION" (NIOI) - "AS NECESSARY AS THE NIEO" - CAN AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT "BY ENCOURAGING CONSTRUCTIVE AND WIDE-RANGING COOPERATION FOR ACHIEVING GREATER COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE."

2. THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION SPECIFICALLY ENDORSES THE SETTING UP OF A COORDINATION COUNCIL COMPOSED OF NAM MEMBERS TO TAKE DECISIONS REGARDING FURTHER MEETINGS ON COOPERATION IN A VARIETY OF AREAS, INCLUDING COMPILING DATA PREPARATORY TO ESTABLISHING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AMONG THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NON-ALIGNED; PROMOTING POOLING ARRANGEMENTS, CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES; ESTABLISHING TRAINING CENTERS; AND FORMULATING AN INTERNATIONAL CODE ON THE FUNCTIONING AND USE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSNATIONAL PRESS AGENCIES, ETC. THE DECLARATION ALSO REPORTS THAT THE CONFERENCE AGREED THE NON-ALIGNED SHOULD COORDINATE ACTIVITIES IN THE UN AND ELSEWHERE TO SECURE THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ON THE ROLE OF MASS MEDIA "IN

STRENGTHENING PEACE, PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION...AND IN COMBATING RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, ZIONISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION." COMMENT: THE DRAFT DECLARATION AS ORIGINALLY PREPARED BY THE INDIAN ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE DID NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO "ZIONISM." IT WAS THE ONLY POLITICALLY NOTEWORTHY ADDITION MADE DURING THE DELIBERATION ON THE INDIAN DRAFT. END COMMENT.

3. INFORMATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ACTUAL POOL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ON THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL DAY JULY 13. A COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AS DISTINCT FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED COORDINATION COUNCIL, IS TASKED BY THE JULY 12 DECLARATION WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF "MAKING THIS POOL OPERATIONAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

4. BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS THE VARIOUS INFORMATION MINISTERS HAVE CONTINUED TO HAMMER AWAY ON THEIR FAVORITE THEMES, INCLUDING THE FAILURE OF WESTERN NEWS MEDIA TO PROVIDE FAIR, ACCURATE REPORTING ON THE THIRD WORLD. THE ETHIOPIAN INFORMATION MINISTER (TADESSE) CHARGED JULY 12 THAT NEWS REPORTS BEING DISSEMINATED ABOUT HIS COUNTRY MADE IT APPEAR THAT ETHIOPIA IS BESET BY RELIGIOUS STRIFE, ECONOMIC CHAOS AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION; THE ENEMIES OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION ARE BEING SUPPORTED AND GUIDED BY REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN THE WESTERN MEDIA. TADESSE ALSO WARNED OF POSSIBLE "COVERT AND OVERT RESISTANCE" TO THE CREATION OF A NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOL. THE ANGOLAN DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INFORMATION (ALMEIDA) DECLARED THE SAME DAY THAT ONE DANGER WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT "NEO-COLONIALISM" MIGHT ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF THE PROPOSED NEWS POOL. HE DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFY HOW, JUDGING FROM THE SAMACHAR ACCOUNT. THE NIGERIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (GENERAL HARUNA) CLAIMED THAT THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT INDIAN WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABROAD: "NOW I SHALL GO BACK AND CORRECT THIS IMPRESSION. THE MALTESE INFORMATION DIRECTOR (PELLEGRINI) CALLED FOR UNITED ACTION, INCLUDING A GENERAL BOYCOTT, AGAINST ANY TRANSNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY WHICH REFUSES TO CIRCULATE CORRECTIONS OF ITS DISTORTIONS. THE TANZANIAN MINISTER FOR INFORMATION (MAWAKAWAGO) DECLARED IN HIS SPEECH JULY 12 THAT ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A NEWS POOL "CAN WE LAUNCH A DECISIVE ASSAULT AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED STRUCTURES OF OUR MISINFORMATION AND OUR DENIGRATION."

5. DESPIRE THE EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE INDIAN

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS AND SAMACHAR TO PROJECT THE APPEARANCE OF HARMONY, REPORTS OF CLASHES BETWEEN SOME DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN SEEPING OUT. AT A JULY 10 SESSION THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY DELIVERED A SPEECH TO WHICH THE SYRIAN DELEGATE SHARPLY OBJECTED. THE PLO MAN THEN INTERRUPTED THE SYRIAN REPLY AND A SHOUTING MATCH ENSUED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE SUDANESE DELEGATE IS SAID TO HAVE ACCUSED THE LIBYANS OF INTERFERENCE IN SUDAN, TO WHICH THE LIBYAN RESPONDED AND THEN WALKED OUT AND REPORTEDLY FLEW HOME. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE JULY 13 "NATIONAL HERALD" CARRIES A STATEMENT BY THE SUDAN MINISTER FOR INFORMATION (RING) CRITICIZING A REPORT IN A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER THAT THERE WAS A SECOND COUP ATTEMPT IN KHARTOUM LAST WEEK; THE MINISTER CHARGED THAT THIS REPORT WAS PUT OUT BY "CERTAIN FORCES AS PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO CREATE A FEELING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFUSION ON SUDAN." IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE INDIAN ORGANIZERS HAVE TRIED TO KEEP SUCH SQUABBLING, WHICH ESSENTIALLY RELATES TO POLITICAL ISSUES INTERNAL TO NAM, OUT OF THE PRESS AND WELL UNDER CONTROL. BY AND LARGE THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

6. THE INDIAN PRESS JULY 13 CARRIES A SAMACHW ANNOUNCEMENT THAT INDIA'S NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY "WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTING THE UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN INDIAN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT." ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAMACHAR'S DECISION NOT TO RENEW ITS AGREEMENT WITH UPI HAS BEEN EXPECTED HERE FOR SOME DAYS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION AND ITS PUBLICATION ON THE FRONT PAGES OF DELHI'S NEWSPAPERS WERE EVIDENTLY TIMED TO UNDERSCORE INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PURPOSES OF THE CURRENT CONFERENCE. (NEW DELHI 10230 NOTAL).

7. PLEASE REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE. EMBASSY HOPES TO PICK UP MORE ATMOSPHERICS IN NEXT FEW DAYS. SAXBE

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